

ever, paucity of establishments prevents the Akráni forests, which have only recently been settled under the Forest Act, being exploited to any considerable extent.

143. Bamboos are exploited and removed by purchasers and consumers from the forests of all the divisions of the Central Circle, except Sholápur, in headloads, cartloads, &c.

(f). EXPLOITATION OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCE.

(1). *Extraction of Fodder.*

144. In the *West Khándesh Division*, there are seven valuable kurans, that is, portions of reserved forest the grass of which is sold annually to be cut and removed, but no grazing is allowed in them: 3 of these are in the Dhulia and 4 in the Sindkheda Range; their total area is 20,827 acres. In 1891-92 the right of taking the grass from them sold for Rs. 7,079, and in 1892-93 it went up to Rs. 9,055.

Grass can be removed from all open forests on payment of fees, except by privilege-holders, who may take it free; and from closed forests also by order of the Divisional Forest Officer. The fees charged are—

					Rs.	a.	p.
Cartload	0	2 0
Headload	0	0 3
Animal load	0	0 6

and during the forest year the undermentioned quantities of grass were removed from the *West Khándesh* forests:—

Cartloads	...	...	...	...	...	21,736
Headloads	...	...	...	...	...	5,131
Animal loads	...	...	...	...	...	691

145. In *East Khándesh* the valuable kurans were farmed for Rs. 16,049 against Rs. 19,159 of the previous year; and 20,490 cartloads were taken from closed forests. The rainfall of the season had been favourable to the growth of grass, which was luxuriant, and consequently the demand on the forests was not so great, as there was abundance of grass on lands outside the forest boundaries.

146. In the *Násik Division*, the purchasers of the grass are allowed to cut and remove the grass after the 15th September, and then to graze cattle on the stubble; there are 32,542 acres of valuable kuran the revenue derived from which amounted to Rs. 15,832, which is slightly less than of the year before.

147. In the *Ahmednagar Division* the grass in about 45,532 acres of the reserved forest was sold for extraction by hand, and realised Rs. 2,092: while 5,061 acres are placed free of charge at the disposal of the Commissariat and Remount Departments for grass supply as under—

Forest.					Area.	Estimated Value,		
					A. g.	Rs.	a.	p.
<i>Given to Remount Department.</i>								
Kaudgaon	...	...	...	...	51 25	82	9	7
Jamb	...	...	...	...	45 11	72	7	8
Narayan doho	...	...	...	...	34 4	54	8	11
Chichondi-Patil	...	...	...	...	596 10	954	0	0
Total					727 10	1,163	10	2
<i>Given to the Commissariat Department.</i>								
Kapurwadi	...	...	...	...	828 17	1,000	0	0
Deogaon	...	...	...	...	126 20	1,250	0	0
Shendi	...	...	...	...	272 36	2,000	0	0
Sesevadi	...	...	...	...	557 12	2,000	0	0
Imámpur	...	...	...	...	733 34	2,250	0	0
Gunjale	...	...	...	...	346 37	750	0	0
Manjursumbha	...	...	...	...	535 17	1,500	0	0
Ghospuri	...	...	...	...	822 14	1,250	0	0
Ratadgaon	...	...	...	...	110 0	1,250	0	0
Total					4,333 27	13,250	0	0
Grand Total					5,060 37	14,413	10	2

148. The revenue from grass in the *Poona Division* came to Rs. 2,923-5-0; no grazing is permitted in the valuable kurans; 19,118 acres of reserved forest in the neighbourhood of the city of Poona are placed at the disposal of the Commissariat Department at Poona, for the supply of hay to feed Government cattle and horses belonging to the Military Department. Some of the best grass-producing lands are thus disposed of: the value of the grass on account of which no charge is made upon the Military Department is estimated to be Rs. 25,850, which is a dead loss to the forest revenues, and a loss of Rs. 12,925 to the Provincial Service Budget.

149. In the *Sátára Division* it is estimated that about 3,500 tons of fodder grass were extracted from the forests. The area of the valuable kurans which were sold for grass cutting was about 10,458 acres, and they realized about Rs. 5,900.

150. The grass in all the closed forests of the *Sholápur Division* is put up to auction sale for extraction by hand, and a fair proportion of it is sold; about 35,936 acres found purchasers, and Rs. 15,065 were obtained in this way.

(2). *Grazing.*

151. In all open forests in the *Khándesh District* grazing is allowed on payment of fees; no grazing is sold by auction in the two divisions of *Khándesh*. The rates of fees charged are as under :—

<i>For Cultivators.</i>				Rs.	a.	p.
For each buffalo	0	8 0
„ cow, horse or ass	0	4 0
„ sheep	0	1 0
<i>For Professional Graziers.</i>				Rs.	a.	p.
For each buffalo	1	0 0
„ cow, &c.	0	8 0
„ sheep	0	2 0
„ goat	0	8 0

In the wilder portions of the district the cultivators' cattle pay half-fees, but privilege-holders, Bhils and inhabitants of forest settlements, graze their cattle free of charge.

152. In the *East Khándesh Division* the whole of the *Sátputá* forests, with the exception of 3,613 acres, and all the open forests in the *South Tápti* ranges, were made available for grazing, and 191,771 head of cattle of different kinds entered and pastured therein on payment of fees, while to 8,893 animals free grazing was given.

The grazing receipts came to Rs. 54,640, or Rs. 5,096 less than of the year before; the decrease being attributable to fewer animals having been sent from foreign territory to find grazing in the *East Khándesh* forests, owing possibly to a good grass season over the border.

153. In the *West Khándesh Division* 387,465 animals were grazed inside the forests during the twelve months ending 31st March 1893, and 60,841 animals paid fees during April, May and June, so that altogether 451,306 animals grazed on payment of fees aggregating Rs. 98,267, while 24,862 animals enjoyed free grazing of the value of Rs. 5,574.

154. In the other divisions of *Násik*, *Ahmednagar*, *Poona*, *Sátára* and *Sholápur* the schedule of grazing fees is as under :—

Kind of Animals.				PERMITS ISSUED BY VILLAGE OFFICERS.		PERMITS ISSUED BY FOREST OFFICERS.
				Cultivators' Cattle.	Professional Graziers.	Outside Cattle.
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Buffaloes, each	...	...	...	0 8 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Cows	...	...	...	0 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0
Horses and asses	...	...	...	0 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0
Sheep	...	...	...	0 1 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
Goats	...	...	...	0 2 0	0 4 0	0 4 0

155. In the *Násik Division* 172,848 cattle of different kinds, including 55,370 sheep and goats, grazed in the forests on payment of fees, and 49,552 cattle,